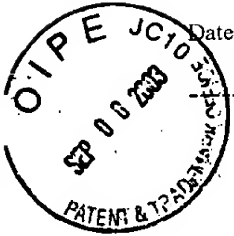


**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL**

I hereby certify that the below-identified **Amendment and Response to Office Action** is being deposited as First Class Mail on this date with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: September 3, 2003

By: Kim L. Wilson  
Signature of Person Depositing as First Class Mail



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**PATENT**

|             |                                |             |                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Applicant:  | Randall W. Nelson et al.       | Docket No.: | 41821.0217       |
| Serial No.: | 09/024,988                     | Examiner:   | Anne L. Holleran |
| Filed:      | February 17, 1998              | Art Unit:   | 1642             |
| Title:      | MASS SPECTROMETRIC IMMUNOASSAY |             |                  |

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2002, the period of response for which was previously extended by three months to April 22, 2003, Applicants submitted an Amendment and Response with the proper extension fee. Subsequently, Applicants received a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. In response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2002 and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated May 7, 2003, the period of response for which is hereby extended by three months, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

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